

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

STATINTL

Crew in Crash Had Medical Problems

By Drew Pearson

It has not been publicized, but all three crew members of the plane that crashed in Ardmore, Okla., April 22, killing 75 servicemen, had medical problems.

Chief Pilot Reed Pigman was under treatment for arteriosclerosis, and nitrogen tablets with his name on the bottle were found in the wreckage. Pigman was president of American Flyers, the nonskied line that was carrying the servicemen.

The copilot, Wilbur Marr, had arteriosclerosis in a mild form. This turned up on autopsy. It was not known before the accident.

Flight engineer Charles Grey is reported to have been under psychiatric treatment.

Flight crews are required to take Federal Aviation Agency medical exams every six months. All three had been passed by FAA doctors.

Dodd's Libel Suit

Here are some things you may not know about Sen. Tom Dodd's \$5,000,000 libel suit: Our attorney, John Donovan, as of this writing, still has not been able to get served with a copy of the complaint. Dodd



Pearson

was in such a hurry that his Wall Street attorney, John F. Sonnet, went before Judge Alexander Holtzoff late last Friday, when other courts were closed, to file for immediate subpoenas. Yet as of now we have not been served and though we asked for copies of the complaint we have been unable to get one...

The case will not come up for trial for at least two years... Sonnet told Judge Holtzoff that there was danger of the witnesses leaving town. On the contrary, most of the witnesses had appeared before a closed session of the Senate Ethics Committee and were standing by ready for public testimony. They had been told in the interim not to talk. Now they are subpoenaed to talk.

It looks as if the Senator from Connecticut didn't trust the final decision of his Senate colleagues... Dodd has now put his case before every branch of the Federal Government. First, he asked the Senate Ethics Committee to investigate. When they took him seriously, he tried to use his old friends in the FBI and the Justice Department. When they began questioning his former employees, he rushed to the third branch of government, the Federal courts.

Eastern Hate-Mongers

The Far West, once considered the hate capital of

the John Birch Society and right-wingism, no longer has that exclusive distinction. The far right hatemongers have now invaded the East.

As a result, the Morrisville, Pa., apartment of liberal commentator Robert Goldman has been wrecked by vandals, with swastikas daubed on his walls.

Also in eastern Pennsylvania, the far right is staging a bitter campaign to unseat a liberal Republican Congressman, Richard S. Schweiker of Norristown.

The drive against Rep. Schweiker is being staged by the John Birch Society, with potent public help from the Pitcairn family, largest stockholders of Pittsburgh Plate Glass, and their lobbyist, Philip Pendleton, who is registered in Washington as lobbyist for the Pitcairn Company, Charitable Contributions Assn., and the Family Tax Association.

One tax amendment which lobbyist Pendleton tried to push through Congress would have given a tax bonanza to Pennsylvania's and the nation's upper crust to the tune of over \$250,000,000.

Also fulminating against the moderate Republican Congressman are the extremist Young Americans for Freedom, better known as YAF, and William M. Taylor who

calls Schweiker the "Communist Representative from Pennsylvania"... a "traitor to God, to country."

A rightist group called "Committee of the Commonwealth" has been organized to defeat not only Schweiker but two other Republican moderates, Rep. Jim Fulton and Rep. Robert Corbett, both of Pittsburgh, the latter being dean of Pennsylvania Republican Congressmen.

Running against Schweiker is ex-Rep. John A. Lafore who is to the right of Barry Goldwater, and who, when in Congress, introduced a bill making the entertainment and other expenses of all lobbyists tax deductible.

Radio Retaliation

Radio commentator Robert Goldman, whose apartment was wrecked, broadcasts across the Delaware River in Trenton, N.J., over station WTTM, where he is host to "Open Mike." He entertains questions from the listening audience and frequently argues with rightist questioners.

Last Jan. 26, while broadcasting, he was personally attacked, beaten up, and sent to the hospital with head injuries.

Since then he has received and average of two threats a week on his life or against his wife and three children.

Columnists' Subpoena to Dodd Requests Financial Records

Attorneys for columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson, defendants in a \$5 million libel suit filed by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., today requested the senator to be prepared to give a sworn deposition and to bring documents and financial records to their law offices next Monday.

In a subpoena filed in U.S. District Court, the columnists' attorneys in a 49-point request asked for records relating to Dodd's dealings with Julius Klein, a retired army officer who heads a Chicago public relations firm representing West German interests.

Tax Records Asked

They also asked that Dodd bring all of his federal and state income tax records from 1956 to 1965; any correspondence he may have had with President Johnson concerning the latter's attendance at two testimonial dinners held for Dodd, and any records of campaign contributions from a number of organizations, including United Aircraft Co., the National Broadcasting Co., and the Teamster's Union.

Dodd brought suit against Pearson and Anderson on May 6 after they published a series of columns alleging misconduct by the senator. The Senate Select

Committee on Standards and Conduct has announced plans to hold public hearings on the Dodd case.

The columnists' attorneys also asked Dodd to bring records of payments he made for the wedding of his daughter, Martha, in October 1964, and correspondence concerning a \$35,000 check television entertainer Ed Sullivan allegedly mailed to the senator as proceeds from a testimonial dinner held in 1961.

The subpoena specifically requested that Dodd provide the attorneys with all correspondence relating to any alleged favors the senator may have performed for United Aircraft and the Kaman Aircraft Co. The request also includes any records dealing with transportation provided for the senator both here and abroad.

Schwarz Correspondence

The attorneys, John Donovan and Warren Woods, also requested correspondence between Dodd and Dr. Fred Schwarz of the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade and documents relating to lecture fees and speaking engagements Dodd may have received from that group.

The subpoena asked for Klein's military record and all documents concerning services he may have performed for the senator both here and in Europe.

The subpoena was served on Dodd today in the old Senate Office Building.

Meanwhile, the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee has rejected a member's request that it make public the transcript of a closed meeting where allegations against Dodd were discussed.

Dodd was not present at the Feb. 21 executive session when other committee members considered asking him to explain his relationship with Klein.

Pearson and Anderson said in a March 7 column that members present "debated whether to throw Dodd off the committee" because of his alleged dealings with Klein.

"Dodd was saved, thanks to the intervention of Sens. Russell Long, D-La., and Claiborne Pell, D-

R.I., and Stuart Symington, D-Mo. They rallied behind him vigorously to preserve the sanctity of the Senate club," the columnists said in a March 12 story.

Letter by Pell

On March 21, Pell wrote to Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. His letter, in part, said:

"I respectfully request that the transcript of our Foreign Relations Committee meeting of Feb. 21 be released to the press.

"I make this request because press accounts based on incomplete data have been inaccurate and misleading, particularly in regard to my own participation."

Pell made his formal request at a May 3 executive session of the committee, but was defeated on a voice vote after what one committee aide described as "considerable discussion."

Symington said he would have been glad to have the transcript released but would not disclose how he voted or whether his position at the Feb. 21 meeting was accurately described by the comment. Long was not available for comment.